

Chris Lombard
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October 24, 2004

Dear Neighbor and Fellow Republican:

I am writing to you today to share with you my thoughts on the choices for mayor here in Piscataway.

As a Republican, it has pained me to see how misguided our party in New Jersey has been during the past several years. Here are just a few recent examples:

- In 2003, our party diverted over \$200,000 in campaign funds to support long-time liberal Democrat Assemblywoman Arline Friscia in the 18th District after she lost the democratic primary and changed her party affiliation to Republican. She lost badly, and the funds diverted to her cost us one Senate seat and possibly two Assembly seats.
- Also in 2003, some elected Republicans in Camden County got on board with McGreevey Democrat candidate John Madden in exchange for jobs and the like, as George Norcross and the Democrats successfully bought that Senate seat for \$6 million.
- In 2004, with the race for Jersey City mayor wide-open and with a special Senate election, the Republicans in Hudson County run no candidates and endorse democrats. The GOP County Chair is actually employed by the democrats.

The list can go on and on, but I think you understand the point: that a Republican Party that stands for nothing and is willing to prostitute itself by selling the party-line is doomed. Is it any wonder that NJ Republicans can't win a statewide election?

Here in Piscataway, Helen Merolla, the former democrat machine mayor, has changed party affiliations to run on the GOP ticket. Maybe I missed it, but I don't remember the Merolla years as a "golden age" of honesty, fairness and good public services. My guess is many Republicans and Republican-leaning independents remember her last reign as a pay-to-play driven mess. At the end of the day, she's just a spoiler.

It was the same democratic machine of prior mayors Ted Light and Bob Smith, and hasn't changed substantially under Brian Wahler (with one exception: the park system has been substantially renovated from the mess Merolla left it in). In fact, if Helen had been re-nominated by the democrats in 2000, she'd be running again today as the democratic machine mayor – she said so herself when she ran as an independent in 2000. Her campaign even speaks warmly in certain neighborhoods about how she is going to work well with the democratic council – just like the old days. Doesn't it make you wonder if she'll switch parties again?

As Republicans we are being asked to have collective amnesia about Merolla's past, so much so that we are being asked to alter how certain events happened. Current Merolla flyers take Mayor Wahler to task for over development, specifically pointing to the Birch Glen development off Possumtown Road. I agree, but the problem is Merolla was on the Planning Board in 1999 that changed the designation of that property to high density housing. In the 2000 mayoral debate, she even defended doing it, saying we needed more low-income housing. Now, she says none of that actually happened. That's just plain untrue.

I would like to suggest to you the only real alternative to Wahler: Clara Halper.

Clara was the GOP council candidate in Ward 4 in 2002. This is probably the most democratic ward in the town, but Clara did better than any of our other candidates, getting 42% of the vote. She has been a consistent attendee of council meetings and board meetings, and has sought out information about questionable contracts and the like. She's a tough conservative who believes local government spending can be trimmed if we cut out the waste associated with a patronage laden, pay-to-play driven administration, while township services such as snow plowing can be improved through better planning and management.

Someone asked if Clara was qualified to be mayor. The fact is we're all qualified for this part-time job. The town is actually run on a day-to-day basis by a hired business administrator. What we need is a mayor who will actually listen to individuals, take their concerns seriously, and seek out solutions in an honest and fair manner. I know Clara can give us that.

I'm not alone in thinking Clara is the best choice. Ken Bliss, Piscataway resident and campaign treasurer for **GOP Sheriff candidate, Charles Edwards**, is also the campaign treasurer for Clara Halper. He knows first hand the Republicans behind Merolla – and he doesn't trust them. With Independents being naturally drawn to her candidacy, she's got a real chance.

So on November 2nd, when you pull the lever for George Bush and the rest of our Republican ticket, I would like to ask you to join fellow Piscataway Republicans like myself and **vote for Clara Halper**. It's a vote for mayor you can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Chris Lombard

Chris Lombard
2000 Republican Candidate
for Mayor and former Vice Chair,
Piscataway Republican Organization

Frank Nacchio

Frank Nacchio
former Chair,
Piscataway Republican Organization

Kenneth Bliss

Kenneth Bliss
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